## 1st Public Meeting Held



The first pubic meeting on the Master Plan was held October 30, 2002. About 40 people attended to view eleven inventory maps and to express their hopes and concerns in a brainstorming session. Respect for the natural environment and appreciation of the rural quality of this part of the Madison metropolitan area were common themes.

Lots of great ideas were suggested such as primitive bike-in, hike-in, and boat-in camping; prairie, woodland, and savanna restoration; bike trails connecting adjacent neighborhoods through the state park to the E-Way and downtown Madison, rentable outdoor activity areas, designated dog park areas, and regional plans with connections to recreation, historic sites, and natural areas. Concerns included traffic, worries about what kind of private development a heavily used park could bring, and security issues.

At the next public meeting you will be able to comment on the vision and goals for the Capital Springs Centennial State Park and Recreation Area and to view suitability maps. A date has not been set at this time.

## A Little History



Each newsletter will contain a column about a unique aspect of the CSCSPRA. In this newsletter we will very briefly cover some history, both cultural and natural.

Lake Farm County Park was the tribal home of several groups of Native Americans for over 12,000 years. The American Heritage Trail at the park is an interpretive trail through the Lake Farms Archaeological District. This location, between several major water resources, probably explains the high density of archaeological sites found here. Old timers can remember teepees in the area of the Beltline north of the park. In the late 1700's fur trappers passed through the area. In the 1830's, after the Blackhawk War, early pioneers settled here and much of Lake Farm Park was farmed until Dane County bought land in 1976.

The Lussier Family Heritage center was designed to interpret the human and natural heritage of Lake Farm Park, the Nine Springs E-Way, and the surrounding region. It will emphasize the early Native American culture of the area and



the important environmental role of the E-Way. The Heritage Center will serve a diverse local population and provide opportunities for youth and adult learning, volunteerism, outdoor recreation, and special events. The Dane County Historical Society is also located at the Center.

Nine Springs Creek is named after the 20 or more natural springs that feed it. Groundwater from a large area flows beneath the wetlands and discharges above ground as springs. Rare fen-type wetlands are found west of Syenne Road where groundwater moving down from the surrounding uplands is forced up through peat soils that contain high levels of dissolved calcium and magnesium carbonates. This naturally alkaline environment (high pH) supports unique and rare fen plant communities.

The Nevin Fish Hatchery is the oldest of all DNR managed lands, acquired in 1876. Over half a million rainbow, brown, and brook trout are raised here annually. The 320-acre property has a variety of plant communities, 14 springs, picnic areas, and is on the Capital City Trail. Hatchery tours are available. Nevin is also the home of the DNR South Central Region Headquarters where information on trails, camping, permits, and all DNR activities can be found. The Forest Pest Lab is located here as well.

about the CSCSPRA Master Plan and to get on the mailing list to: Jennings and Associates 1510 Underwood Ave. Wauwatosa, WI 53213 or e-mail to jennings@execpc.com
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